

REMARKS:

The Office Action dated March 22, 2007, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the present paper, which is believed to be fully responsive to that Office Action, has been prepared.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 7-21, 24, and 26-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 28, 32 and 34 are independent claims. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5, 7-21, 24, 26, 27, and 31. Thus, upon entry of this paper in the record, claims 28-30 and 32-24 will be pending in the application.

Summary of the September 5, 2006, Office Action

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-21, 24, 26, 27, and 31 under one or both of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) or 103(a). Claims 28-30 and 32-34 are indicated as being allowed. The following remarks are intended to address each of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of the claims.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) or 103(a)

As noted above, claims 1-5, 7-21, 24, 26, 27, and 31 have been rejected under one or both of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) or 103(a). In order to expedite receiving a Notice of Allowance in this matter, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5, 7-21, 24, 26, 27, and 31, without prejudice. That action renders the rejections of the claims moot with respect to this application. Applicants reserve the right to refile all concurrently and previously cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications. This action is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an admission as to the merits of the Examiner's rejections of the claims.

Allowance of Claims

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 28-30 and 32-34. Because claims 1-5, 7-21, 24, 26, 27, and 31 have been cancelled, leaving only allowed claims in the application, Applicants respectfully request expedited handling and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.